

New York Tribune.

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The Becker Verdict.

The result of the second Becker trial is a vindication of the soundness and efficiency of the jury system. As our criminal procedure has become more and more over-refined and more and more obstructive of the true purpose of criminal administration, our juries have happily become more and more disposed to vindicate the majesty of the law by adhering to simple, common sense methods.

Juries nowadays stand in no great awe of confusing technicalities and the red tape of legalism. Intelligence and independence are more widespread, and a jury, conscious of its ability to interpret facts, is less hindered than ever before in interpreting them in accordance with its own ideas of reason.

After the recent reversal rulings of the Court of Appeals it might have been imagined that jurymen would balk a little at treating the facts in the Rosenthal murder case just as they would treat the accustomed facts of everyday life. But they did not hesitate to go straight from practically the same data to the same inevitable conclusion.

Who was the instigator of Rosenthal's murder? The state held that Becker was the man most actively interested in putting Rosenthal out of the way, and the best efforts of the defendant's counsel would have seemed to almost any twelve impartial-minded men to fall far short of giving plausibility to any contrary theory.

It may not be incumbent on a defence to set up an alternative theory, but had there been any ground on which to base the claim that Rosenthal was shot without Becker's knowledge in a "gamblers' war" counsel for an innocent man would undoubtedly have found a way to shake the jury's confidence in the state's rival solution.

Becker's defence was altogether too passive. It stood solely on negations, and those negations did not greatly appeal to common sense. There was not enough of the fighting spirit of conscious innocence on the Becker side to shatter even from the psychological point of view the damaging array of direct and corroborative evidence presented by the District Attorney.

We do not see how any competent jury could find Becker innocent on the showing made either at this trial or at the first trial. Because we believed the first verdict substantially just we deplored the action of the Court of Appeals in overruling it on technicalities. In our view the technical errors found may have marred the juristical symmetry of the first trial, but they did not interfere with the reasonableness of the verdict.

To the lay mind the substantialities of justice are more important than the niceties of procedure, and when substantial justice is defeated on narrow grounds of technicality it is our opinion that both the courts and the public suffer.

Criminals have extraordinary advantages under our system of criminal law. The dice are always loaded in their favor. The chances of an innocent man's being convicted are negligible. The chances in favor of a guilty man's escaping are far too liberal.

Such verdicts as that in the Becker trial yesterday are therefore reassuring. They show that juries are stanch and eager to do justice as they see it, and justice as the jury sees it is still properly the controlling ideal in our criminal trial system.

Mr. Whitman is to be congratulated on having fought against great odds a splendidly successful battle to bring to account the man "highest up" in the Rosenthal murder conspiracy.

New York will be a cleaner and better city for the conviction of this arch criminal masquerading in a policeman's uniform.

The "Unofficial" State Convention.

The Republican County Committee's refusal to sanction an unofficial state convention this fall to select candidates for state offices is eminently logical and sensible. It is proper, even desirable, to have such a convention for a discussion of party policies to be embodied in the platform, a ratification of the change in basis of representation in national conventions and a consideration of the personnel of the group of delegates-at-large to the constitutional convention, a special and exceptional body.

It is a different matter with candidates for regular state offices. The law provides that these shall be nominated directly at the primaries. While it does not attempt to prevent any preliminary party action, official or unofficial, the spirit of the law is not in accord with the holding of any party convention of hand-picked delegates to hand pick one or more candidates acceptable to whatever element happened to control the convention and send them forth with the stamp of party approval on them for primary uses.

Logically, such a course would be irregular; practically it would be foolishness. It would split the party and make the subsequent primaries a farce. The existing law is weak in many respects and unqualifiedly bad in a few. Yet the way to get a better law is not to disregard this one. If there is any merit in the direct primary it is that candidates shall go before the party voters on an equal basis, without pull or preference. To attempt to nullify this through the selection of candidates by a body not responsible to the voters would be futile, if not fatal. The County Committee deserves the

thanks of Republicans all over the state for its sensible and far-sighted action.

The Home of the Antis.

Among other philosophy Mr. Mellen dropped a comment upon Boston. The unpopularity of the New Haven road was confined mainly to that town, he observed.

And Boston is the home of the "antis." If you can name anything that has ever been proposed for the good of humanity that Boston has not opposed I would like to hear of it.

Boston has several replies to this. One is that she was altogether right in disliking Mr. Mellen and his railroad. Another answer is the record. With such little items as a revolution and a civil war fostered by its citizens, Boston can scarcely be rated as wholly negative in its attitude. Latterly, it must be confessed, the city has developed certain new breeds of "antis" with mental involutions that would have stirred oaths from their forebears, equally handy with tea-chests and muskets.

But Mr. Mellen ought to be thankful for this modern fine-spun philosophy and calmly critical spirit. We hate to think what the solid men of oldtime Boston might have done to him!

Waking Up Brooklyn.

This is subway day in Brooklyn and the cry of "Wake up!" will be heard in the borough. Work is actually to commence on the six-track subway up Flatbush avenue to Prospect Park, and besides the usual shovelling of earth with gold shovels there are to be receptions, luncheons, speeches and parades.

The day is due and overdue, and there is every reason why the borough should celebrate. But we refuse to concede that Brooklyn needs any waking up. There is a comfortable calmness about her citizens. That is why they elect to live there. But it is a blessed relief after the strenuities of Manhattan, and it would be a thousand pities if excitement over anything should destroy it.

Surely New York can afford to cherish one spot in which to preserve such old-fashioned institutions as sleep, churchgoing and real, individual homes.

Credit for Appropriations Cuts.

Governor Glynn will not love Speaker Sweet for the unshrinking way in which the latter removes the gubernatorial laurel crown, self-bestowed for holding down the state's appropriations. Yet the records show that an accurate distribution of praise for that achievement must award more to the Assembly than to the Executive. The Governor, as Speaker Sweet points out, has talked more about economy and the amounts of his appropriations vetoes; but the Assembly has done greater service in paring down appropriations before they ever got to the Governor and in keeping political grabs out of the bills than the Governor was able to do.

The Tribune has no desire to withhold praise from the Governor for the good work which he did. It has no desire, either, to see him obtain credit for good work which the Republican Assembly did. And it seems to be necessary at this stage of the controversy to remark that if the Governor, a Democrat, and the Tammany Senate had been as willing as they said they were to cut expenditures down to the bone the appropriations might be a great deal lower than they are. The Republican Assembly proposed a rigidity of economy which the Democrats were not willing to accept because it involved a loss of jobs for party henchmen. If they had been self-sacrificing enough to accept that and even to retaliate by further cuts which involved some Republican jobs they would be entitled to all the economy glory they now claim.

The Fire Hazard of Carelessness.

It is a striking indictment of this city which Fire Commissioner Adamson drew when he told the National Association of Manufacturers that all save nineteen fires here in the last year were attributable to carelessness, neglect or criminality. Improper disposal of cigars and cigarettes, he said, lighted 1,079 fires; carelessness with matches set 1,175; street bonfires were responsible for 1,055 conflagrations; gas ranges and radiators caused 753 fires; overheated flues, stovepipes and furnaces produced 606; and failure to have chimneys properly cleaned 703; children's play with matches or fire resulted in 588 blazes; candles set 351 fires; ignition of gasoline and benzine vapors 294; and an indefinite cussedness, labelled "mischievousness" in the department records, 311.

Out of these fires came loss of life and loss of property. The money loss is not alone on the individuals directly affected. The taxpayers feel it in the cost of maintaining a huge and complex fire department; property owners get it in their insurance rates; even the occupant of the humble flat bears his proportion of it in the rent. The city maintains a bureau of fire prevention, which is doing good work in compelling the installation of fire fighting devices and the removal of fire hazards in buildings. The best bureau of fire prevention possible would be the general public firmly determined not to play with fire or take any chances.

Carranza Ought to Become a Party to the Niagara Falls Conference.

It is discouraging to hear that the agent of the Constitutionalist government in Mexico, who was reported as ready to journey to Niagara Falls and put himself informally more or less in touch with the mediation proceedings there, never received such an assignment. The course of events in Mexico has upset the status quo in the conference, since while the friendly agents of the A B C powers have been facilitating an exchange of views between the government of the United States and the Huerta government the authority of the latter to speak for them is being withdrawn by a larger and larger portion of the Mexican people. Tampico, Tuxpan, Saltillo and Tepic have fallen in quick succession. Carranza and Villa now have the whole of Northern Mexico in their power, and within a few weeks they will be masters of a considerable section of Middle Mexico. There is apparently no serious military obstacle left to a triumphant procession from Saltillo to Mexico City.

To deal with Huerta and his following as the true representatives of the Mexican people, ignoring Carranza and Villa, is now an absurdity. Any compact made with the Huerta delegates would have to be submitted subsequently to the Constitutionalist, and the difficulties in the way of an agreement would be heightened by the fact that the Constitutionalist had assumed no responsibility whatever for the settlement. The revolutionists have had a wonderful success in the field. They are gaining prestige and strength daily, and if the conference at Niagara Falls were to be prolonged well into the summer without their approval or participation its result would be barren. A new conference would have to be called to deal with a new government and a new public sentiment in Mexico.

The mediators would save time and trouble by arranging at once to deal with Carranza and Villa as principals. A settlement of the Mexican problem which left them out of the reckoning would be of little or no value.

The Conning Tower

Analogy Written Near a City Backyard.

The sparrow sounds the note of starting day; The chirping herd take quickly up the key; The ashman onward bangs his canny way, And leaves the world a sleepless place for me.

Now glints the shimmering wallscape on the sight, And all the air a restless bedlam holds, Save where our Nora sleeps beyond her right, While kitchen tinklings hint the milk and rolls.

W. G. S.

And now, within this Ivory-mantled Tower, The moping bard doth to the town complain, Go! switch on all thy poetic power, And slip us other stanzas in that strain.

The commencement season impinges and with it will come the daring remarks of the baccalaureate sermoners. "Honesty wins" and "Financial success is not everything" are some of the revolutionary preachments of last season. Watch the Tower for excerpts from the 1914 grist.

BUTTONHOLE BOUQUET.

Accept this token of our ripe

Regard, O Collyum, please.

We do not know these flowers' type—

We picked them on the keys.

A. R. F.

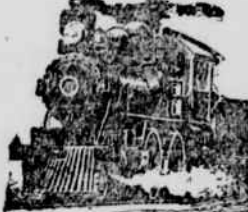
The American public, which is interested in sport and fascinated by the business of sport, reads the daily accounts of the Fed games, and wonders how the league is prospering. Why don't the reports tell the attendance?

THE DIARY OF OUR OWN SAMUEL PEPPYS.

May 21.—Up, and with G. Daley to the courts, and we had five vigorous sets, but I was hard put to it to win one. Thence to the office, where I rec'd a deal of bantering at having lost, but took it in good part, as why should I not? All the evening at work, and better content with the result of my labours than for a fortnight.

22.—Early to the office, and on the way down the stairs to the tube I espied a frail-seeming maid burdened with a heavy suit-case, and I did make to carry it for her, but she turned upon me spitefully, saying, Release it, which I did, but felt bitter at heart and could not but hope no man would ever give up a seat to her in a crowded train. And, musing thus, I did glimpse an oldish woman standing near me, and rose and offered her my seat, but she glowered at me, saying loudly, I am emerging soon, which she did not do, not till we had come to the Bridge. Which cheered me not at all. To the ball-park, and saw a dull game, and sat next Harry Stevens the provender-dispenser, and he asked me for a cigar, which I did give him, he vowing to give me one some day. Then B. Bulger asked me and D. Runyon to ride home with him in his petrol-wagon, and we assented, but we could not find it anywhere soever, and I would not swear he owneth one, never having seen it. Dannon and I then home by cab, and we did match coins for the reckoning and I won, which I was glad of. Home to dinner and thence to the office, where there was much talk of the conviction of Becker, which all I saw deemed a just thing.

Our Own Financial Photographs.



N. Y. N. R. & H. TRAIN LEAVING WILLAMANTIC, CT., SHORTLY AFTER CHARLES A. MELLEIN ASSUMED THE PRESIDENCY OF THE ROAD.

NOT AGAIN; NO. Sir: Would you call the performance now being enacted in court a Melodrama?

Subsolar novelties, as Solomon once observed, are non-existent. The poisoned needle-thing, Bill Wood tells us, is Old Stuff. From Cymbeline, Act I, Sc. 2:

I would they were in Africa both together, Myself by with a needle that I might prick The goer back.

THE LIT'RY GAME.

The Klupenreiner store to-day will present the new "Ragged Trouser" and "Philanthropist" overalls for men, and other fashionable apparel designed for workmen's garments. The style note of the latest fashion is taken from Robert Tressall's new novel "The Ragged-Trousered Philanthropist." While the styles have been introduced by the efforts of the publisher to advertise the book, it is thought that fashionable sympathy for the laborer on the part of the upper classes will find a fitting expression in these new smartly designed garments. They will be posed in the men's Mauve Saloons from 10 to 11:30 and from 2 to 4:30 o'clock.

The Myth Emporium is showing to-day the new Byron Robes de Nuit. They are modeled on Lord Byron's famous poem "She Walks in Beauty Like the Night," and have the endorsement of the Byron estate's residuary legatees.

Whozies' Hat Store is displaying the new straw hats these mornings. A particularly distinctive style for exclusive dressers is called "The Helmet of Navarre," in honor of Bertha Runkle's epoch-making novel.

"Whatever bad effects the Tower may have," Bab offers, "it has a good influence. Many a contrab who 'simply can't get up' rises early on certain mornings to see whether he's landed."

Don't Thank Us; Thank the Linotype and the Proofreader. P. P. A.: Have you seen the case of United States ex rel. Ali Goglow, Tamisch Scherbow, Sabas Zarikow, Afago Atkapok, Powkin Zarikow, Sarakina Wendegut, Tuta Tawkonakoff, Sachid Pannewhaw, Mular Gurlov, Dyko Gazaf, Geranduka Tabuchow, Zukarney Mukosoff, Chasir Charnisow and Aschid Gurlov v. Byron H. Uhl, Acting Commissioner of Immigration at the Port of New York, in this morning's Law Journal? They were not admitted to this country. Can I get them into the Tower? Thanks.

ROCKMORE.

WE MIGHTN'T EVEN APPROACH IT. Sir: You might almost call it Chick-in-Sandwich, mightn't you?

WILFRED FUNK.

Edar, the Vaterland of the Tower, objects to being our so-frequent lastliner.

"Why not," he expostulates, "draw your own conclusions?"

F. P. A.

ONCE MORE.

BECKER-GUILTY
BECKER-GUILTY



THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

PLAIN WORDS ON THE B. R. T.

A Brooklynite Relates His Grounds for Complaint.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: It is refreshing to find some one with courage enough to write about the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company. Some time ago a taleman was asked in the Brooklyn Supreme Court if he had any prejudice against the B. R. T., and his answer was that he believed every man in Brooklyn had.

The other day I boarded a trolley car at the Williamsburg Bridge Plaza bound for New York and got into conversation with a man who said he had travelled all over the United States, but had never found anything in the line of transportation as bad as Brooklyn's. I do not know what use the general public is concerned, but I do know from daily experience that the Brooklyn elevated system is the meanest affair I have ever met anywhere. Most of the stations are island stations, and have no accommodations for either men or women. The waiting rooms are dingy and dirty, and for about six months of the year one-half, or nearly one-half, is occupied by candy and newsstands. The only official of the company is the lone woman who sits in her box, takes the fares and manages the turnstiles. If the station platform gets congested and there is disorder, excitement or commotion there is not a man with authority to act and restore peace.

Often one has to wait ten to fifteen minutes for trains supposed to run on a seven-minute schedule. Some of the trains have only two or three cars, which are so crowded that neither seats nor straps can be found, and no redress can be obtained for mutilated toes or torn off buttons. Some of the cars are as antiquated as Noah's Ark, while seats intended to hold two people are only fit for two ardent lovers who do not object to such packing. The conductors and guards, as a rule, are all right, but there are some very poor specimens of humanity among them—some who are too lazy or too weak to call out the stations, and can only use the stereotyped "step lively" as passengers try to get out or in through the blocked platforms. I saw one man break an end window in his desperate effort to get out alive through a cordon of toughs, and probably a few crooks, who always like to stand on crowded platforms.

Such are the conditions that prevail, which can be verified by thousands who daily travel on the Brooklyn elevated trains. Surely the members of the P. S. C. know of these evils, as well as the company, and the poor, suffering, sweating public; the latter, of course, are not worthy of consideration in Brooklyn. A little publicity from such papers as The Tribune may inspire a much needed reform.

M. R. B.

Brooklyn, May 21, 1914.

LETTING THE MAN DO IT

Folly of a Woman Who Turns Over Her Property to a Brother or a Son.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: You would greatly oblige a daily and Sunday reader of your paper if you would publish an editorial on the foolishness of a woman allowing her brother or her son or any one man to have full charge of her property.

The writer knows of two cases. This party has had charge of his mother's property and his sister's property for about fourteen years, during which time he has sold and mortgaged their property by simply getting both of them to sign papers without reading them.

Neither his mother nor sister is extravagant, yet they are without money most of the time, and neither one could do anything to earn money.

There should be a law passed prevent-

ing one man from managing the property of others unless he is appointed by the court and put under bonds.

The law in the State of Pennsylvania is that no woman can sell or mortgage her property without the signatures of her husband and sons. We should have the same law in the State of New York.

INTERESTED.

Brooklyn, May 21, 1914.

THE SUPINE POLICEMAN

A Reader Testifies to His Existence in Time of Need.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: If it had been your misfortune to encounter the supineness of some policeman when women (or a man of modest carriage) attempt to procure co-operation in some semi-public matter you might be able better to understand Mrs. Wright's excitement when befriending an unfortunate horse.

Only last Sunday a policeman asked by me to co-operate in the checking of a violation of a city ordinance said, "Who are you?" with the emphasis on the "you" etc. of the S. P. C. A., it would come amiss, perhaps, for him to be taught the instructions of the late Mayor Gaynor to the police: "A load needn't be weighed to demonstrate whether a horse is overloaded or is not. If the horse can't haul the load with reasonable ease the animal is overloaded, one ton or two tons or a few pounds." Common sense, not some academic conclusions, should be brought to bear.

All honor to Mrs. Wright for her kind and unselfish heart. Would there were more with some illumination of heart and mind!

B. E. STORRS.

New York, May 21, 1914.

IN DEFENCE OF MR. BRYAN

His Course in Mexican Affairs Is Applauded.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Describing a visit which he made to the quarters of the 24th Regiment, immediately previous to the outbreak of the Franco-German War, Verdy du Vernois, then serving on the Prussian general staff and later Minister of War, makes the following statement:

"No one who has seen war with all its horrors and the suffering which it causes, even to the successful side, can possibly wish for it." And that writer further says that on the next occasion when he saw this regiment they were lying in heaps on the ground which they had bought with their blood.

These words of a successful soldier, who had gone through three wars and who presumably ought to have become indifferent to the hardships which they caused, lead us to the proper standard by which we may gauge the acts of our responsible servants in the direction of our foreign policy. Against two of these in particular (President Wilson and Mr. Bryan) much criticism has been aimed, but it is of the latter with whom we wish to deal especially in these remarks.

Is Mr. Bryan in the right in his efforts to proceed deliberately and avoid entanglement, if any other reasonable way can be found to deal with the crisis? To any one who has studied history closely and kept current with the changing views of public sentiment, nothing, I think, can be more clearly apparent than the fundamental transformation in the belief of civilized peoples on the subject of international relations and the deeper meaning of patriotism.

Pure devotion to the interests of the state was the peculiar possession of Republican Rome. It made her great, and when it shifted to devotion to individual

leadership the state declined and Rome fell. The Greek could never surmount his love for his own little state, and his hatred or contempt for the rival municipality, or the barbarian. The Middle Ages give us the king of divine right, and he, in turn, is followed by the narrow type of national patriotism which is exemplified in Chatham, and which was much in vogue until recently. Belief in spreading that outside what all this signifies beyond real service, patriotism, merely as such, contains much that is utterly worthless. Patriotism and the fighting spirit if defensively maintained is magnificent; in the aggressive feature which the yellow press seems minded to put into it, it is dangerous and may be fiendish.

Absolutely and on principle no nation has the right to deprive another of its desire for peace or the full enjoyment of its own national life, and, though such a state has a civilization which the other might consider lower in the scale, it alone has the right to improve it and to adjust and rectify its own ideals. As a thorough believer in progressive ideas, this improvement will come to Mexico as it has come to Japan and China. Climate, history and environment there worked to make Mexicans and not Americans. If we have any business there, it is business and not slaughter.

An adversary will grant all the foregoing, perhaps, and then say: "Why, then, was Huerta not recognized and save all this useless warfare?" There is a twofold answer to this. In the first place there is the deeper meaning of national honor. To give point to the feeling which every American ought to have on the subject of a cowardly assassination, we were bound to follow our convictions and make them felt. In the second place, Huerta never had it in his power to give peace after that deed, as events have shown, and that the Mexican conscience is just as lively on this point is proved by the fact that they forthwith took up arms to rid themselves of a usurper and murderer.

The peculiar victim of the yellow press in all this sad business has been Mr. Bryan. It claims that sentiment and not business has been the controlling feature of his policy. This by no means follows. Vague sentiment is one thing; caution based on the feeling of responsibility is quite another. In all this we can see but one guiding principle: to do justice and avoid the needless sacrifice of human life. Insulted and reviled as probably no other man in American public life has ever been, he has had a long and honorable career, his adhesion to his moral sense has been unflinching, and in no crisis has his conduct been more creditable and honorable than in this sad business of Mexico. FREDERICK E. WALCH.

Syracuse, N. Y., May 16, 1914.

A MILITARY TRAIN

There Was No Railroad from Vera Cruz in 1847.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: On page 2, your special feature section, Sunday, May 17, under the heading, "Contumely Was Trist's Pay for Ending the Mexican War of 1847," in the fourth column, you state:

"But a delayed train and the lapse of six days swept Trist into that insubordinate disobedience out of which grew the seeming impossibility. Upon receipt of his recall he planned to leave the Mexican capital on December 4, 1847, by special train for Vera Cruz," etc.

Now, in view of the fact that there was no railway in operation between the City of Mexico and Vera Cruz until about the year 1872, your statement would be rather misleading for the uninformed. I suppose that your writer had in mind a military train or escort.

CHARLES LACEY PLUMB.

New York, May 18, 1914.